

A. Cresswell
BROWN UNIVERSITY,

PROVIDENCE, R. I.

1st January 1870

My Dear Prof. Gray.

Your Letter of the 28th
Dec. & the Address of Mr Francis came
duely to hand.

I am glad that the attention of
your Committee was turned to
Mr. Corliss as a proper Candidate
for the Rumford Medal.

I have known Mr. Corliss
many years, & have long been
acquainted with the peculiarities
of his Engine. And in the course
of my Lectures to my classes on
the Steam Engine in years past I
have often had occasion to
consult him. For fertility in
mechanical expedients, for
practical sagacity in detecting
the merits & demerits of any new
Combination, for self-reliance.

and a kind of conscious mastery
over the resources of mechanism.
I think he more nearly resembles
James Watt than any other man
with whom I have any acquaint-
ance.

It has long been my opinion
that Corliss Engines were equal
to the best ever made.

For five or six years my
attention has been withdrawn
from these studies. And I cannot
so well tell what has been done
in that time. But I think the
remarks of Mr. Francis in reference
to Watt towards the close of his
paper will be sustained by the
majority of competent judges.

I have no suggestions to make
on Mr. Francis paper, He has stated
the grounds of your decision clearly
& modestly. In my opinion, of the

two, he has rather understated
than overstated the claims of
Mr. Corliss to precedence among
the improvers of the Steam Engine
since the time of Watt.

I am extremely obliged
to you for the invitation to be
present on the occasion of the
presentation of the Medal.

I have been confined to my
house for a few days by temporary
illness. I am now pretty well
restored. If I can do so without
too great inconvenience I shall
be with you on the 11th instant.

I am yours. very truly.

Alfred Caswell

Prof. Asa Gray LL.D.
Cambridge Mass.